

COMMUNITY CARE HOMEMAKER SERVICE FUNDING

Presented by

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I am here today to lend my voice and support to the efforts already underway in the State of Illinois. Legislation (Senate Bill 2880) supporting seniors and their desire to enjoy the benefits of living independently in their homes should be recognized as one of the most serious needs facing the older adult population today and in the coming years.

Senate Bill 2880 calls for the restructuring of all aspects of service, including the provision of housing, health, financial and supportive services for older people. This Bill also calls for the development of a Nursing Home Conversion Program to be established by the state departments of Public Health and Public Aid.

As a Service Provider to the Older Adult population, located in Alton, Illinois my primary interest and support of this Bill rest with its call to reduce reliance of nursing homes by Medicaid, the federal-state program that pays the health-care costs for the poor. One of the many programs managed by Senior Services Plus includes our Community Care Program. The program offers the Services of Homemakers to seniors throughout the Southwestern Illinois Counties of Madison and St. Clair.

It is my hope, that the recent passing of Illinois Senate Bill 2880 will become the road map at the Federal level for restructuring the delivery of Homemaker services to facilitate the independent living of seniors.

As you are well aware, services to seniors and people with disabilities has primarily been based within institutional facilities. This new legislation supports creating a network and system that balances home care with institutional care. Additionally, the new law calls for the Illinois Department on Aging to begin the restructure no later than January 1, 2005, and to give priority to the expansion and development of new services in areas identified with the greatest need.

Alton, Illinois is an Urban Area serving a senior population that includes a high number of seniors classified as those with the greatest

social and economic needs. As a Service Provider to the senior population, the expansion of services to older adults through the Community Care Homemaker Program carries the highest priority for me.

I would ask that the 2005 White House Conference on Aging mark among its' highest priorities, making funding at the Federal level available to increase and expand services to older adults through the Community Care Homemaker Program.

I want to express my THANK'S to the Illinois Department on Aging and the 14A Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the Illinois Coalition on Aging for allowing me this opportunity to participate in the Listening Session in preparation for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging.